



# **Poult Enteritis Mortality Syndrome Program**

## **Overview**

The Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is assisting turkey contract growers who lost income due to an outbreak of Poult Enteritis Mortality Syndrome (PEMS). PEMS assistance is available only to those individuals who raise poultry owned by other individuals and who sustained losses between March 1, 2000, and April 30, 2001. Corona virus or any other disease resulting in depopulation of turkey houses are **NOT** eligible.

## **PEMS Background**

From March 2000 through April 2001, several turkey contract growers were forced to depopulate their turkey houses due to a PEMS outbreak. PEMS is an intestinal infection causing dehydration and high mortality rates in young turkeys (poults). To end the disease, affected growers depopulated their turkey houses and left them empty for 2 or more growing cycles of about 10 weeks each.

## **Funding**

The Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2001, Public Law 106-554, provides up to \$2 million for the PEMS assistance program.

## **Signup**

Signup for the PEMS program is from May 1, 2001, to May 31, 2001. Producers must file application CCC-661 at the USDA Service Center that serves the county where the depopulated turkey houses are located. Applications from turkey owners on behalf of contract growers are not acceptable.

## **Eligibility Requirements**

Eligibility applies only to turkey contract growers who depopulated their turkey houses between March 1, 2000, and April 30, 2001, due to a PEMS outbreak. Any "person" with a qualifying gross revenue in excess of \$2.5 million for the 2000 tax year is not eligible.

To apply for benefits, contract growers must provide:

- evidence of the contract with the owner;
- documentation showing the number of birds that were destroyed and the number that would have been raised had there been no need to depopulate the turkey houses during the period of March 1, 2000, through April 30, 2001; and
- proof from a veterinarian or qualified technician that PEMS was the reason for the depopulation.

FSA will perform spot checks to verify contract growers' losses.

## **Payments**

FSA is expected to issue payments in late June 2001. If eligible claims exceed the available program amount, FSA will apportion the claims accordingly. The payment rate for young turkeys is \$.20 per bird with a normal mortality rate of 10 percent. A payment limitation of \$40,000 applies to each "person" for benefits received under the PEMS program.

## **More Information**

Further information about this or any other FSA program is available from local FSA offices or on the FSA web site at: [www.fsa.usda.gov](http://www.fsa.usda.gov)

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